Written by Lesia Nave
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Ashe County Schools is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Martha Turner to the position of Coordinator of Child Nutrition. Mrs. Turner steps into this role upon the retirement of Angelina “Angie” Thompson. Mrs. Thompson who has served in this capacity for over four years, states, “This position has been challenging due to reform in child nutrition services at both the state and federal levels. However, this has been a very rewarding experience as I have been able to work with all the students and staff of Ashe County Schools. They have given me suggestions on how to improve the child nutrition program and increase participation. I personally have enjoyed working closely with the managers and all cafeteria staff. They work hard on a daily basis and adapt to the many changes in child nutrition.”

One of Mrs. Thompson’s accomplishments is the continuance of the Fruit and Veggie Grant provided through the US Department of Agriculture. This grant provides a fresh fruit or vegetable as a snack to each student four times a week at the three elementary schools. This school year, Mrs. Thompson, along with the cooperation of the administration and staff at Blue Ridge Elementary, implemented the Universal Breakfast Program where every child has the opportunity to eat a free breakfast regardless of lunch status.

Mrs. Turner will have the opportunity to work and train with Mrs. Thompson. She brings leadership skills, team collaboration, and business knowledge to the position. Mrs. Turner has a leadership style that rallies all stakeholders. Her communication skills and ability to adapt will assist in this transition. Her experience with the school system as a classroom teacher will provide an avenue to educate students and staff regarding nutrition and developing a healthier lifestyle. She will be able to work with classroom teachers to incorporate lessons within the curriculum based on the new federal guidelines. Ashe County Schools welcomes Mrs. Turner to this new position.